

In The Drawings

Filed concurrently herewith is a Submission of Replacement Drawings in which Applicants submit Fig. 11, which has been amended to clarify the various alternative methods used by a user to sign in with the system, and/or log onto third party sites and have the system input authentication credentials in the user's personal database for any third party site a user may visit.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the affidavit filed January 5, 2006 overcomes the Novel Digitalme reference, and for the withdrawal of the rejection under this reference. Moreover, Applicants thank the Examiner for the numerous telephone conferences he had with the undersigned regarding this Office Action and possible claim amendments to overcome the rejections. In the Office Action, claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,006,333 to Nielsen ("*Nielsen*").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

After carefully reviewing the newly cited reference, *Nielsen*, Applicants amend the independent claims 1 and 14 to further define the invention, amend various dependent claims to better define the invention, and add claims 44-66 to claim the invention differently. Accordingly, claims 1-66 are pending for further consideration.

Claims 1-43 Are Patentable Over The Cited Reference

Claims 1-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Nielsen*. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office action has not established that *Nielsen* anticipates each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention and that all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. In particular, Applicants contend that newly amended independent claims 1 and 14 recite features that are not disclosed or taught by *Nielsen*.

The present application recites a method of managing and linking a user's personal authentication credentials including other personal information, or the user profile, over a network. As recited in both independent claims 1 and 14, as amended, the user's user profile and authentication credentials are input to a personal database that resides on the network based system, or on the server. Thus, the user does not have to use the same device in order to log onto a third party site using the inventive method. See the specification, page 22, lines 8-18.

Nielsen, on the other hand, discloses that the user's information is input to a database that resides on the client side, such as within browser software or on the actual user PC. See the Abstract of *Nielsen*: "The client system maintains a database of encrypted passwords and user IDs for remote servers to which the user is registered." Thus, in order to take advantage of the *Nielsen* system, the user must use the same PC or specific device every time. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Nielsen* fails to disclose at least the features of creating a personal homepage and personal database for the user that resides on the system, as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, a claim is anticipated by a prior art reference only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn because *Nielsen* does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 14. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit

that claims 2-13 and 15-43 are patentable over the cited references as being dependent upon allowable claims, and for the additional features each claim recites.

Amendments to Dependent Claims

Various dependent claims have been amended to better define the inventions. Claims 8 and 21 are amended to define the various alternatives that occur using the method of the present invention. Thus, claims 8 and 21 clarify that if a user is already registered with the system, the system and/or the user can check for existing authentication credentials in the user's personal database for any third party site that a user may visit. If the third party authentication credentials exist in the personal database, the system will automatically input and link the user to the third party site, input the third party authentication credentials and log them in accordingly. If the third party authentication credentials do not exist within the user's personal database on the system, the user can input the authentication credentials into the personal database on the system, and the system will automatically link the user to the third party site, input the third party authentication credentials and log them in accordingly.

Similarly, the Specification and Fig. 11 are amended to clarify the various alternative methods that a user can sign in with the system, log onto third party sites and have the system input authentication credentials in the user's personal database for any third party site a user may visit. Applicants submit that no new matter is added by these amendments as the specification discloses these methods throughout.

New Claims 44-66

Applicants have added dependent claims 44-66 to claim the invention differently.

Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Specifically, claims 44 and 45 recite the creation of a client-side application, such as a browser plug-in and/or side-bar application. The data thus resides on both the system and locally. This feature is taught in the specification at page 20, lines 10-21. Claims 46 and 47 recite that the optional application is synchronized with the personal database on the system. See the Specification at page 21, lines 1-11.

Claims 48-53 and 56-61 recite the auto-registration and intelligent database features of the invention. As discussed in the specification beginning at page 17, line 12, the personal database is an “intelligent” database, in that when the user goes to a new web site for which registration is required, the inventive system searches the database for the needed information. If not all information is resident within the database, the system will ask the user a series of questions in order to complete the registration at a third party site and store the newly collected information in the system’s database.

Claims 54 and 62 recite a step of automatically revising the user’s user profile and authentication credentials, which is discussed in the specification starting at page 22, line 19.

Claims 55 and 63 recite the step of creating a history for the user. See the specification at page 21, line 1.

Claim 64 calls for a feature of compensating a user, by a participating merchant, when the user purchases an item using the inventive method. See the specification at page 24, line 20 to page 25, line 9.

Claim 65 calls for a method of quality control wherein the system regularly and automatically visits third party sites and checks to see that the registration and authentication processes, including the necessary user profile and/or authentication credentials used by the third party sites have not changed. See the specification at page 26, lines 4-7.

Claim 66 calls for a method of adding additional third party sites to the system's network. The system checks for third party sites that require user profile and/or authentication credentials. Once found, the system, either manually or automatically, inputs the additional sites' requirements for user profile and/or authentication credentials into the system's database. See the specification at page 25, line 20 to page 26, line 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 44-66 are patentable over the cited references as being dependent upon allowable claims, and for the additional features each claim recites.

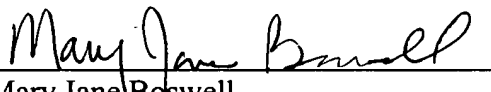
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response; the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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